

*WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, September 23, 2015, to receive a City Manager Update and discuss Capital Projects.*

*Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center.*

*PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Council Member Leta Mach arrived later in the meeting.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager and David Moran, Assistant City Manager.*

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: Susan Stewart, George Boyce, Bill Orleans and Jim Giese, News Review.*

### *Capital Projects*

*Mayor Jordan welcomed everyone. Mr. McLaughlin explained that Council had a practice of conducting a detailed review of the Capital Projects section of the Budget over the summer. Mr. Moran gave an update on the projects, including a new expanded status report.*

*There was discussion of replacing the shredded rubber surfacing at the 1 Court Southway playground. Council favored a separate work session on the topic and requested that staff invite PRAB and get a cost estimate for equipment replacement at the playground.*

*Mr. Putens requested an update on the Greenbrook Trails project. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the City was still trying to reach an agreement with the homeowners association.*

*Under the New Dog Park project, it was suggested that the City pursue a joint arrangement with Franklin Park. Mr. Putens indicated that nobody was monitoring the Greenbelt East Dog Park. Ms. Pope stated the Dog Park was being better maintained and complimented Mr. Fink on his efforts. She suggested changing the fee structure for permits. Ms. Davis asked if the Dog Park Association had been rejuvenated.*

*Ms. Mach asked about the Cemetery Expansion - Urn wall project. It was noted this was on the list of un-programmed projects. She also noted PRAB's review of the Attick Park Master Plan.*

*Council discussed the need for a study/analysis of City facilities (similar to an HOA reserve study) to evaluate future repair & replacement needs. Mr. McLaughlin agreed that this would be a valuable exercise, but there was likely to be a significant cost with such a study.*

*Council reviewed the list of Un-programmed Projects in the Budget.*

### *City Manager Update*

*Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the monthly financial report with Council. For FY 2015, Mr. McLaughlin reported that FY 2015 revenues and expenditures were slightly better than estimated during the FY 2016 Budget Process. He indicated speed camera revenues were up and there had not been as many abatements as anticipated in FY 2015.*

*Mr. Herling asked Mr. McLaughlin if the office vacancy rate gave him pause about the Sage Study. Mr. McLaughlin responded that he believed the vacancy rate was a regional problem and that the evolving commercial office market was a factor.*

### *Informational Items*

*Ms. Mach announced that Maryland Municipal League (MML) Communications Committee was working on the "If I were Mayor Contest" with a health theme this year.*

*Mr. Putens suggested the upcoming business breakfast be held in the Theater for a showing of the new 4-Cities video. Mr. Herling liked the idea as a way of also promoting the theater.*

*Mayor Jordan provided an update on the meeting with County Executive Baker regarding the reduction in School Resource Officer (SRO) funding to Greenbelt, Bowie and Hyattsville. Mr. Herling suggested the reduction was likely to be longer than one year. Ms. Davis suggested that the City pull the SRO from Eleanor Roosevelt High School and instead use the SRO as a floater at all Greenbelt schools.*

*Ms. Davis reported a problem on Hanover Parkway after the second roundabout before Greenspring. She also reported that the two proposed MML Legislative Priorities were Restoration of Highway User Revenues and maintain Program Open Space funding. Ms. Davis discussed the Sustainable Maryland Certified program.*

*Mayor Jordan referenced the New York Times article about funding challenges regarding the FBI Relocation.*

*The meeting ended at 10:37p.m.*